these amendments and the amendments are not intended to affect the scope of the claims.

A. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1-53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as anticipated by Thomas This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 18, 41 and 42 call for, among other things, an act of or means for associating a meta-data attribute with a stored true-data attribute. This feature is clarified by amending the claims to specifically note that the meta-data value field describes the associated true-data attribute. At least this feature of Applicant's independent claims is not shown or suggested in the Thomas reference.

Thomas describes a profile retrieval system that is used to customize an instance of a created object using data that is stored in various repositories. In operation, an application sends an object creation request to an object broker. The object broker queries the data stored in the repositories and generates a "custom" object using the parameters returned from the various repositories. Notably, the object creation request "contains an object type parameter which identifies the particular type of object to be created and any parameters or other information needed to perform the create operation." (col. 17, lines 21-24). These parameters are associated with the object being requested/created, not with an entry in any of the repositories.

Each repository in Thomas has a number of entries. Each entry is associated with an "object type" that refers to the type of object that will use the entry. Importantly, there is not any meta-data stored with or associated with the entries. None. The entries are retrieved by properly formed queries, and repository search routine must be told a priori what entries to look for in order to access the correct information. (col. 17, lines 40-44). In contrast, the present invention claims a system and method in which meta-data is associated with each entry so that when the entry is accessed, the meta-data associated with the entry itself will be able to inform the accessing process how the data may be used. Hence, the accessing process does not need to know a priori what type of true-data attribute is being accessed, access

4

restrictions, ownership, expiration parameters and the like. Each true-data element carries with it, by way of the claimed meta-data association, this bundle of useful information. The requesting application need not supply the information to the requesting process.

Claims 2-17, 19-40, and 43-53 that depend from claims 1, 18 and 42, respectively, are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons set out above.

B. Conclusion

In view of all of the above claims 1-53 are believed to be allowable and the case in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. The references that were cited and not relied upon are believed to be no more pertinent that those references that were relied upon.

No fee is believed to be required by this response as determined on the accompanying transmittal letter. Should any other fee be required, please charge Deposit 50-1123. Should any extension of time be required please consider this a petition therefore and charge the required fee to Deposit Account 50-1123. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **"Version With Markings To Show Changes Made"**

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 18, 2001   BY: _____

Stuart T. Langley #33,940
HOGAN & HARTSON LLP
One Tabor Center
1200 17th Street, Suite 1500
Denver, Colorado 80202
Phone: (720) 406-5335
Fax: (720) 406-5301

5

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

A. In the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph on page 20, line 16 as follows:

An important feature of the present invention is that profile attributes are associated with sets of meta-data attributes. For clarity, a true-data attribute is defined herein as an attribute that contains a value (e.g. data, external reference, or binding) used by a user entity or client. A meta-data attribute is defined as an attribute associated with a true-data attribute which contains information used and maintained by the core profile engine 201 (shown in FIG. 2) . Meta-data attributes may also contain information associated with an entire profile, rather than [an] a particular true-data attribute.

B. In the claims

1(Amended). A method for managing a profile service, the method comprising:

storing at least one true-data attribute in a profile object, said true-data attribute includes a true- data key and at least one true-data value field;

associating at least one meta-data attribute with said true-data attribute, said meta-data attribute includes a meta-data key and at least one meta-data value field, wherein the meta-data value field describes the associated true-data attribute;

storing said associated meta-data attribute; and

managing said true-data attribute according to said associated meta-data attribute.

18(Amended). A profiling service for accessing user data, said profiling service comprising:

a plurality of profile objects;

at least one true-data attribute contained in each of said profile objects, said true-data attribute includes a true-data key and at least one true-data value field;

6

at least one meta-data attribute associated to said true-data attribute, said meta-data attribute includes a meta-data key and at least one meta-data value field, wherein the meta-data value field describes the associated true-data attribute; and

methods within each profile object to access the user data according to said meta-data attribute.

41(Amended). A profiling service for accessing user data, said profiling service comprising:

means for storing at least one true-data attribute in a profile object, said true-data attribute includes a true-data key and at least one true-data value field;

means for associating at least one meta-data attribute with said true-data attribute, said meta-data attribute includes a meta-data key and at least one meta data value field, wherein the meta-data value field describes the associated true-data attribute;

means for storing said associated meta-data attribute; and

means for managing said true-data attribute according to said associated meta-data attribute.

42(Amended). A profile object for maintaining client configuration data in a hierarchical fashion, the profile object comprising:

at least one true-data attribute in the profile object, said true-data attribute includes a true-data key and at least one true-data value field; and

at least one meta-data attribute associated to with said true-data attribute, said meta-data attribute includes a meta-data key and at least one meta-data value field, wherein the meta-data value field describes the associated true-data attribute.

7